



Senate Institutions Committee
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

RE: S.69

Dear Chair Harrison and Vice-Chair Plunket,

On behalf of the Satellite Broadcasting & Communications Association, we respectfully oppose the current form of S.69 and urge the Committee to amend the bill to address the public policy issue for which it is intended.

We understand and support the goal of the bill – to protect minors from unfettered access to inappropriate or harmful content that is widely available on social media. However, the expansive scope of the bill as written vastly exceeds the source of the concern—social media—and instead encompasses a much broader range of entities with no associated issues such as satellite video and streaming. That is, the burdens created to regulate the social media industry are imposed on an unrelated industry, namely video distributors such as satellite TV and their affiliated streaming services.

DISH Network and DIRECTV both require that anyone who purchases their services be at least eighteen years of age. In addition, all platforms (satellite and streaming) have parental controls that allow a parent or guardian to restrict viewing as they deem appropriate. Minors cannot purchase the service, and parents can choose what content is available to their children.

In return, the companies provide licensed media which *does not contain any user-generated content*. In other words, the issue at which the bill is directed does not exist with respect to satellite video and streaming. Indeed, the concept of exempting content distributors of “pass-through” material is explicitly recognized in the bill, as internet service providers (“ISPs”) are specifically exempted. Since the satellite video companies and their streaming services similarly distribute content, we ask that the same exemption apply to our particular industry as well. It is worth repeating that the satellite video companies, along with their streaming services, provide content only from licensed media entities, unlike the currently exempted ISP’s that provide content from *any source*.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Steve Hill
President

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